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BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT

Herefordshire



Joint
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and of the
Public Health Inspector
for the year 1962

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December 1962)

D.R.G. Morris Chairman of the Council

J. James Vice-Chairman of the Council

D.H. Evans

H. R. Hartwright

J. H. Jacobsen

E.G. Jones Chairman of the Finance and
General Purposes Committee

M.J. Peto, M.B., Ch.B., D.Obst.

Mrs. E.C. Powell

R.A. Pullen

G. T. Ross

F.J. Wall Chairman of the Highways, Buildings,
Public Health & Lighting Committee

Clerk of the Council . . . L. A. Flint, LL.B.

G.D.K. NEEDHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Westfield Walk,

LEOMINSTER.

(Telephone: Leominster 2049)

A.A. MAXWELL, M.A.P.H.I.,

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor,

Surveyor's Office,

BROMYARD.

(Telephone: Bromyard 2147)



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To the Chairman and Members,
Bromyard Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Powell, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1962.

I wish to thank Mr. Maxwell for completing much of this report, and for his help in the past year.

G.D.K. NEEDHAM

Medical Officer of Health

North Herefordshire Public Health Office,
Westfield Walk,
LEOMINSTER,
Herefordshire.

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	213
Estimated mid-year home population	1,670
Average number of persons per acre	7.8
Number of inhabited houses	582
Average number of inhabited houses per acre ..	2.7
Average number of persons per house	2.9
Rateable Value	£18,031
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£80

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHSLive Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	15	7	22
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	16	7	23
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor: 1.06

	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
Bromyard Urban (Crude)	13.8	19.1	15.4	12.4	21.9
" " (Adjusted)	14.6	20.2	16.3	13.1	23.2
England and Wales	18.0	17.4	17.1	16.5	16.4

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent of total live births:

Bromyard Urban ..	4.3
England and Wales ..	figure not yet available

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
Bromyard U.D.	Nil	Nil	34.5	Nil	Nil
England and Wales	18.1	19.1	19.8	21.0	21.6

INFANT DEATH RATESEarly Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Bromyard U.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	*

Neonatal Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Bromyard U.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	*

Perinatal Mortality

Still Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard U.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	*

Infant Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	
Bromyard U.D.	{ Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	47.6	27.0
	{ Legitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	47.6	27.0
	{ Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
England & Wales	{ Total	21.4	21.6	21.9	22.2	22.5
	{ Legitimate	*	21.2	21.5	21.9	22.3
	{ Illegitimate	*	25.3	26.4	27.4	27.8

* Figures not yet available

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths .. Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard U.D. .. Nil
England and Wales .. *DEATHS

		Males	Females	Total
Total number of deaths from all causes:		15	9	24
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:				
Comparability factor: 0.89		1962	1961	1960
Bromyard U.D. (Crude)	14.4	12.6	12.9	15.9
" " (Adjusted)	12.8	11.5	11.7	14.5
England and Wales	11.9	12.0	11.5	11.6

Cancer

		Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Malignant Disease:		2	3	5
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:				
	1962	1961	1960	1959
Bromyard U.D.	3.00	3.59	2.92	3.53
England and Wales	*	2.15	2.16	2.14

Cardio-Vascular Disease

		Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease:		9	4	13
Cardio-Vascular Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:				
	1962	1961	1960	1959
Bromyard U.D.	7.78	7.18	7.60	8.22
England and Wales	*	6.10	6.00	5.88

Respiratory Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)

		Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Respiratory Disease:		1	-	1

* figures not yet available

Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated
mid-year home population:

	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
Bromyard U.D.	0.60	1.20	1.17	1.18	0.59
England and Wales	*	1.60	1.26	1.53	1.37

* figure not yet available

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	1	3	4
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	-	3
Coronary disease, angina	5	1	6
Other heart disease	1	3	4
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	-	1	1
Suicide	1	-	1
TOTAL:	15	9	24

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT

Disease	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
Whooping Cough	-	6	-	-	-
Measles	-	12	5	2	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	5	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	2	-
Dysentery	-	2	-	-	-
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	-	2	-	1	-
Malaria (Contracted abroad)	1	-	-	-	-

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE

Whooping Cough	13	126	70	38	39
Measles	337	583	189	388	258
Scarlet Fever	9	11	23	46	28
Erysipelas	5	3	4	4	2
Acute Encephalitis:					
Infective	2	1	3	-	-
Post-Infectious	2	-	1	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	15	18	18	33	14
Dysentery	1	62	123	3	16
Food Poisoning	5	11	39	3	5
Paratyphoid Fever	1	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-	-	2
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	7	9	7	13	7
Non-Pulmonary	2	2	3	2	3
Malaria (Contracted abroad)	1	-	-	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR 1962

(9)

COMPARATIVE CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	North Herefordshire	England & Wales
Whooping Cough	0.36	0.19
Measles	9.28	4.00
Scarlet Fever	0.25	0.33
Erysipelas	0.14	0.04
Acute Encephalitis:		
Infective	0.05	0.002
Post-Infectious	0.05	0.003
Acute Pneumonia	0.41	0.27
Dysentery	0.03	0.66
Food Poisoning	0.14	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.03	0.003
Tuberculosis:		
Pulmonary	0.19	0.39
Non-Pulmonary	0.05	0.05
* Puerperal Pyrexia	1.70	8.33

* per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1961.	6	4	1	3
Left district	-	1	-	-
Number on Register at 31st December, 1962.	6	3	1	3

TUBERCULOSIS (Continued)

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1958	Nil	14	Nil	Nil
1959	1	14	Nil	Nil
1960	Nil	13	Nil	1
1961	2	14	Nil	1
1962	Nil	13	Nil	Nil

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION OF REPORT

In the preparation of the Annual Report of the Sanitary Circumstances of the area, it is felt that not only these matters should be dealt with, but also the future of the area as a unit of Local Government. Despite the efforts of officials and members of the Council to improve the district by the introduction of industry, the response has been far from satisfactory, even though two small factories employing female labour have been installed during the past two years.

The population of the district has remained practically the same over the last ten years and compared with other areas where the birth rate exceeds the death rate, this has balanced itself each year. Speaking in a humorous term "The area is like Peter Pan, it won't grow up". What can be the solution to this problem, now that the comprehensive water scheme of the County Water Board is under construction and approval given and the contract fixed for the new and much needed sewage disposal works ?

Does the district's future lie in the development of the area as a dormitory town serving the larger towns of Worcester, Hereford and Kidderminster, or as an area under the Town Development Act, being a participant in an "overspill" scheme with a town like Birmingham whence population and industry may be directed into the area ? Or has the area to become part of a larger district and so lose its identity as an administrative district ? Under the review of County Districts this may become a fact, due to the recommendations of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the grouping of small authorities. Economically this would be better for administration and, from the co-ordination of services, improvements which cannot be entertained at present may become accomplished facts and be for the benefit of the area and the population.

With the ever increasing legislation that continues to be made law, these changes in administration would allow both officials and councillors to keep up to date with the modern trends of local government. Whilst the abolition of the small areas may regretfully reduce the personal contact of officials with the population of the district, the economic

structure of the area would be strengthened for the benefit of the majority.

WATER SUPPLY

Number of houses connected to the main supplies of the Herefordshire Water Board 606

Despite many difficulties in maintaining the supply during the year the Water Board ensured that there was always an adequate and wholesome supply in the area, and when complaints were conveyed to the Board's Engineer these received immediate attention. It is pleasant to note that between the Board's officials and this authority there exists an excellent liaison to our mutual benefit.

The samples taken during the year for bacteriological examination were all found to be satisfactory.

SWIMMING BATH

There is no public swimming bath in the district.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

According to records, this area has been talking about a sewage disposal scheme since 1872 when the then existing Sanitary Board approved of a scheme that would be in the region of £1,350, and an engineer was instructed to prepare the scheme. What happened to this proposal like those in 1900, 1905, 1913, 1925 and even in 1936, can be guessed, as the councils of those days were more concerned in keeping down expense than marching with the times. Since the advent of the Rivers Pollution Act, this council like many others is now bearing the burden of past neglect, and at the end of the year Ministry approval was received for the long awaited sewage disposal scheme for the area at a cost of over £60,000. This means that the charge on the rates, despite any assistance that may be derived from other sources, will if anything retard the development of the town. As mentioned in my report of last year, could not this essential service not only for this town but every other town and village in the country be a national one in the interests of public health ?

HOUSING

Nothing much can be added to previous reports on the general housing conditions of the area, except that owners are now realising the benefits of the Standard Grants towards modernising their houses, and there has been an increased demand during the year for grants. No council houses were erected during the year, but in private development a scheme has been submitted for the erection of 45 dwellings for sale in Highwell Meadow: this scheme will entail laying a new sewer in the Highwell area and the existing properties that at present use septic tanks can be connected to the sewer and to the new sewage disposal works.

HOUSING (Continued)Standard Grants

Nine applications under this scheme were approved during the year.

Council Houses

The Council's scheme that resulted in the bungalows being erected in the Schallenge some years ago has during the year been the subject of visits from representatives of five local authorities, all of whom expressed approval of the layout and the construction of the houses and their amenities.

As mentioned on previous occasions, the maintenance costs of council houses is steadily increasing, and it is evident that within a few years many of these dwellings instead of being an asset will be a liability to not only this authority but to many others in the country.

Rent Act, 1957

No action was taken during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Regular weekly collections are made from every occupied house and business in the district, which with almost 600 houses in the district, means (excluding business premises) 31,200 collections of refuse are made yearly. For years many of the householders have been using any old type of container for refuse, despite the fact that in the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 75, they are required to provide a proper type of dustbin. It may be in the near future that the power given under this section will be strictly enforced in the area.

The street cleansing of the main streets is carried out daily, and in other parts of the town on a routine system. Much of the work of street cleansing could be drastically reduced if persons would carry out the requirements of the Litter Act, and report offenders who throw refuse all over the streets instead of into their dustbins. In these days of increasing legislation the council's officials cannot themselves keep proper observations on the general public for this offence.

Public Conveniences

During the year the custom of supplying toilet rolls in the lavatories has been abandoned, as it appears that some users for the payment of one penny thought they were entitled to whole toilet roll: the attendants now place loose sheets of toilet paper in the compartments three times daily.

RODENT CONTROL

During the past two years the rat population seemed to be decreasing, but recently with the hard weather at the end of the year there was an increase of rats in the area. The attraction of animals housed in the centre of the town, the slaughterhouses, and the indiscriminate dumping of food waste by residents helped to increase the number of rats. When complaints were received they were dealt with promptly, and baiting and poisoning carried out in the sewers and around suspected breeding places brought about a large number of "kills".

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISIONMilk Registration and Licensing

Three dealers are registered in the urban district. No complaints were received or action taking during the year.

Food Premises

There has been a distinct trend in the food shops of the town to improve their conditions, and the majority of the businesses dealing in foodstuffs are now modernising their premises, taking into consideration advice given for dealing with the food in a hygienic way.

The proprietors of the businesses realise that clean and attractive premises improve their trade, and it is noticeable that the assistants in these premises always wear clean and tidy overalls. To these progressive traders I must add my congratulations on their efforts which can compare very favourably with food premises in larger towns.

Meat Inspection

As previously reported, there are two slaughterhouses in the district. Whilst both have had alterations carried out to comply with the standards of the Ministry of Agriculture, and in their way are satisfactory, in these days of progress and hygiene the sites of both premises cannot be termed "ideal". Until a definite policy of centralised slaughtering is introduced by the Ministry, I cannot see much hope of these two slaughterhouses being transferred from their present sites. If the retail trader in other foods dealt with their merchandise in such manner as the butchering fraternity of this country slaughter and dress the animal carcases, and the fanatics of "hygiene" realised the conditions, we might see Ministerial steps for the slaughtering of animals in premises similar to hospitals, where all overalls and utensils of the trade were properly sterilised for each slaughter of an animal. Perhaps this dream will not be realised until centralised slaughtering has become a fact.

Meat Inspection (Continued)

The supervision of slaughtering in the private slaughterhouses is a problem, and with the increase of legislation falling to an officer holding a joint appointment with multifarious duties is indeed a strain, but as far as reasonably practical inspections are carried out on the regular slaughtering days.

Six persons are licensed to slaughter animals under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-54, and no licences extend to the slaughter of horses.

Carcasses and offal found unfit in whole or in part and surrendered:-

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	420	15	133	2440	760
Number inspected	420	15	133	2440	760
<u>All diseases except Tubercu- losis & Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcases condemned ..	--	-	4	9	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	97	7	12	371	102
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcases condemned ..	-	-	-	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	-	-	2	-	9
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Whole carcases or carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	-	-	-	-	-

Meat Inspection (Continued)Unsound meat surrendered:

Abscesses	98 lb.
Actinobacillosis	21 lb.
Bilateral Pyelonephritis	27 lb.
Bone taint.	68 lb.
Distomatosis	418 lb.
Inflammation	8 lb.
Oedema	8 lb.
Parasites	128 lb.
Septicaemia	31 lb.
Tuberculosis	193 lb.
Bruising	61 lb.

1061 lb.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Only five visits were made specifically under this Act during the year. However, other visits were made under other laws, such as the Food Hygiene Regulations.

FOOD HYGIENETypes of Food Premises in the district

Bakehouses	3
Cafes and Canteens	10
Grocers and General Stores	14
Greengrocers	5
Retail Fishmongers	3
Fried Fish Fryers	1
Sweet Shops	8
Butchers	4
Licensed Premises	10

During the year 18 visits were made to Bakers, 136 to Butchers shops, and 12 to the Fried Fish Shop.

Foodstuffs Condemned

The following was surrendered by traders:

10 tins Pork	66 tins Tomatoes
18 " Corned Beef	83 " Peas
71 " Asst. Meat Products	41 " Evaporated Milk
12 " Grapefruit	3 " Pears
2 " Fruit Salad	2 " Creamed Rice
6 " Oranges	24 " Fish Products
14 " Peaches	
4 lb. Lard	6 lb. Prunes
6 lb. Margarine	28 lb. Herrings
2 lb. Ground Almonds	10 lb. Cod
5 lb. Butter	14 lb. Hake
10 lb. Shell Fish	28 lb. Haddock

Ice-Cream

All ice-cream sold in the district is pre-packed and stored under hygienic conditions.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICTTotal numbers of InspectionsPublic Health Acts

Obstructed drains and sewers	9
Drainage and sewer tests	14
General Nuisances:	
Dwellinghouses	14
Other premises	3
Cleanliness of houses	1
Keeping of animals	1
Infestation (except rodents)	1
Disinfection	2
Water supply	8
Moveable dwellings	68

Public Cleansing Service

Refuse Collection	52
Refuse Disposal	52
Cesspools	6

General Inspections

Dwellinghouses	16
Hotels & places of entertainment	26
Public Conveniences	52
Others	15

Housing Acts

Improvement Grants	9
Housing Consolidated Regulations	4
Re-inspections	25
Overcrowding	1
Certificates of disrepair	1
Rehousing applications	5
Housing Survey	2

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Visits	8
Re-visits	20

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Part I	32
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Shops Act, 1950

..	48
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Food and Drugs Act

Fried fish shops	12
Butchers shops	136
Bakehouses	18
Grocery & General stores	80
Greengrocers and Fishmongers	21
Hotel and Catering Kitchens	18
Other food preparing or serving premises	52
Confectionery shops	28
Ice-cream sellers	26

Total Numbers of Inspections (Continued)Food and Drugs Act

Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	26
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	142
Food Delivery vans	..	..	..	..	16

SUMMARY OF REPAIRS AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTSInterior of Houses

Sinks renewed	..	..	..	..	1
Sash cords repaired and windows				repaired	4
Doors repaired or renewed	..	..	..		2
Chimney flues repaired	..	..	..		4
Defective gas pipes repaired	..	..	..		8
Burst water or defective water				pipes repaired	67
Fireplaces repaired or renewed			..		12
Steps taken to combat dampness			..		2
Proper lighting and ventilation					
of food store	..	..	..	..	1

Exterior of Houses

Gutters renewed or repaired	..	..	..		5
Leaking roofs repaired	..	..	..		7
Rainwater pipes renewed or repaired					2
Defective chimney pots repaired			..		1
Walls repainted	..	..	..		2
Yard pavings repaired	..	..	..		2
Outbuildings repaired	..	..	..		-

Drainage

Choked drains and sewers cleared	..	..	20
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	..	..	14
Manholes repaired	..	..	3
Choked W.Cs. repaired	..	..	4
New inspection chambers installed	..	..	1

Sanitary Conveniences

Flushing cisterns renewed or		repaired	..	31
W.C. pedestals renewed	..	..	..	4
W.C. roofs repaired	..	..	..	-
W.C. doors repaired	..	..	..	1

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1959

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by the L.A.	15	32	-	-
Factories not included in above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by L.A.	-	-	-	-
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by L.A.	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959 (continued)Cases in which defects were found

	Number of cases			
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1
TOTAL	3	3	-	2

Outwork

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in Aug. list required by Sec.110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel:						
Making etc.	6	-	-	-	-	-

